

**REMARKS**

Claims 1–20 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1–4, 7, 10 and 12–19 were amended herein.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

**35 U.S.C. § 103 (Obviousness)**

Claims 1–4, 12–14 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,145,036 to *Barenys et al* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,721,817 *Khosrowpour*. Claims 5–8 and 15–17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Barenys et al* in view of *Khosrowpour* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,363,437 to *Ptasinski et al*. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In *ex parte* examination of patent applications, the Patent Office bears the burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness. MPEP § 2142, p. 2100-128 (8th ed. rev. 2 May 2004). Absent such a *prima facie* case, the applicant is under no obligation to produce evidence of nonobviousness. *Id.*

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met: First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or

suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. *Id.*

Amended independent claims 1 and 12 each recite a complex programmable logic device on a circuit board card in a card location on a common control bus capable of accessing a first number of card locations and coupling one or more devices on the circuit board card to the common control bus in a manner allowing the common control bus to access more than the first number of locations. Such a feature is not found in the cited references, taken alone or in combination.

Amended independent claim 18 recites a complex programmable logic device on a circuit board card controlling selective coupling of a first device on the circuit board card to a common control bus. Such a feature is not found in the cited references, taken alone or in combination.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 1–8, 12–14 and 17–18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has been overcome.

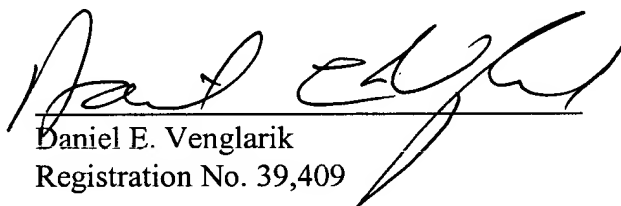
If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *dvenglarik@davismunck.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVIS MUNCK, P.C.

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Daniel E. Venglarik  
Registration No. 39,409

P.O. Drawer 800889  
Dallas, Texas 75380  
(972) 628-3621 (direct dial)  
(972) 628-3600 (main number)  
(972) 628-3616 (fax)  
E-mail: *dvenglarik@davismunck.com*